



## Introduction to Neuroimaging

#### for Algebraic Topologists





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### Overview

- Structural MRI
  - Modalities & Contrasts
  - Macro-neuroanatomy
  - Registration
  - Parcellations
  - DWI Tractography
- fMRI
  - Origins of the BOLD signal
  - Experimental Paradigms
- M/EEG
  - Origins of the M/EEG signal
  - Source localization
- Connectivity
  - The three Cs
  - Connectomics
  - Neural mass modelling





### Tools of the trade







### Imaging Brain Structure





T2-weighted









### Macroscopic Cortical Anatomy







# Spherical topology of cerebral hemispheres



Robinson et al. 2016

### (see also: <a href="http://gallantlab.org/brainviewer/sulcigyri/">http://gallantlab.org/brainviewer/sulcigyri/</a> )





### Parcellations

Can be thought of as neuroanatomically principled form of data downsampling

Quite a few around...

Bit of a wild west...

Rapidly evolving field







### Tractography









### Origin of the BOLD signal

Blood oxygenation-level-dependent (BOLD) signal:

Neural activity -> increased oxygen consumption -> increased blood flow

-> change in magnetic susceptibility







### Experimental & Statistical Paradigms

'Classical' mass-univariate analysis

HRF-convolved boxcar regressor

-> beta -statistic images for each contrast

first-level mass-univariate analysis

-> t/F statistic images for each subject

Enter into second-level (group) analysis -> 'activation maps'



Marslen-Wilson & Tyler, 2007





### Experimental & Statistical Paradigms Multi-voxel pattern analysis

*HRF-convolved boxcar regressor* 

-> beta + t/F -statistic images for each contrast, for each subject



*multivariate analysis on patches of voxels* 







### Experimental & Statistical Paradigms Resting State

#### What?

- 1. An experimental paradigm (barely) for measuring brain activity at rest
- 2. What the brain is doing at rest
- 3. Specific, canonical patterns of coherent low-frequency fluctuations. At rest.

-> 'RSNs'

#### Why?

- Flexible, easy, practical...etc..
- Links to neurocognitive structures



### Correspondence of the brain's functional architecture during activation and rest

Stephen M. Smith<sup>a,1</sup>, Peter T. Fox<sup>b</sup>, Karla L. Miller<sup>a</sup>, David C. Glahn<sup>b,c</sup>, P. Mickle Fox<sup>b</sup>, Clare E. Mackay<sup>a</sup>, Nicola Filippini<sup>a</sup>, Kate E. Watkins<sup>a</sup>, Roberto Toro<sup>d</sup>, Angela R. Laird<sup>b</sup>, and Christian F. Beckmann<sup>a,e</sup>





Smith et al. 2009













### Physiological Basis of M/EEG signals 1. Action Potentials and post-synaptic potentials







### Physiological Basis of M/EEG signals 2. Apical dendrites in the cortical ribbon



<u>Synchronized</u> micro-current sources due to PSPs in <u>aligned</u> apical dendrites of cortical pyramidal cells summate to produce <u>meso-current sources</u>





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### Physiological Basis of M/EEG signals 3. Micro- and meso-current sources









### Physiological Basis of M/EEG signals 4. Electrical/magnetic field distribution on the scalp







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### Event-related potentials (ERPs)



Grand average waves







### Event-related potentials (ERPs)





Main components: N1, P2, MMN, N2b, N2pc, P300 (P3a, P3b), N400, P600

Main classification: exogenous/endogeneous

Component magnitudes + latencies are modulated by cognitive manipulations

### Frequency & time-frequency analysis

Power law scaling

 log power is a linear function of log frequency with some exponent α





#### Alpha rhythm

- (by far) most dominan spectral feature of EEC
- Slows with age
- Multiple spatial components





### Frequency & time-frequency analysis

#### Power law scaling

 log power is a linear function of log frequency with some exponent α

#### Alpha rhythm

- (by far) most dominant spectral feature of EEG
- Slows with age
- Multiple spatial components







### Multi-scale entropy

#### Sample entropy:

"Negative logarithm of the probability that if two sets of simultaneous data points of length m have distance <r then two sets of simultaneous data points of length m+1 also have distance <r"

SE = -log (A/B)

where A = # of length m+1 pairs with difference < r B = # of length m pairs with difference < r

Measure of *regularity* or *complexity* 

#### Multiscale entropy:

sample entropy for multiple levels of downsampling changes with age, development, cognitive state



McIntosh et al. 2013





### Evoked vs. Induced Responses

#### Evoked power: average > TF decomposition

#### Induced power: TF decomposition > average



Tallon-Baudry et al. 1999





#### Problems and strategies

Inverse problem is ill-posed; requires constraints

Three families of approaches:

- Focal dipole modeling
- 'Scanning' / spatial filters
- Distributed source modelling

Main source of error: registration

EEG data requires more detailed tissue conductivity models than MEG







#### Dipole Modelling

5 parameters (per dipole): position (x,y,z) orientation (theta,phi)

Incrementally add in until best fit / most parsimonious fit

Not always 100% automated (v. nonlinear optimization problem)

Not recommended....



#### Beamforming

spatial filter, optimized independently for every source location

not an inverse solution

SAM: scalar, nonlinear; find dipole orientations that maximize total power/noise ratio

LCMV: vector, linear; maximize variance subject to unity gain constraint



Match Filter



ACB



LCMV

SAM

Ramirez 2008

(not generally used in EEG...)





Distributed Inverse Source Models

Assumed fixed dipole orientations from cortical surface

-> linear, undertermined system of eqs **B** = LJ + E



Algorithms differ in regularization, depth-weighting, priors on source locations, sparsity





### Connectivity & Networks





### The three C's



Sporns 2007





### Functional/Effective Connectivity Metrics of choice

fMRI

- Pearson Correlation
- Partial Correlation
- Wavelet coherence
- ICA

#### M/EEG

- Imaginary Coherence
- Phase synchrony
- Bi/Multivariate Time/Freq domain Granger Causality
- Band-limited power correlations

### Connectomics

### Connectome

Bavcres

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **connectome** (/kəˈnɛktoʊm/) is a comprehensive map of neural connections in the brain, and may be thought of as its "wiring diagram". More broadly, a connectome would include the mapping of all neural connections within an organism's nervous system.





### Connectomics

#### Structural connectome



#### Functional connectome









## Modelling neuroimaging data with networks of neural masses







### Conclusions

High-resolution structural MRI data used for spatial alignment and identification of where to sample from (e.g. grey matter ribbon)

fMRI: = good spatial, poor temporal resolutionM/EEG = variable spatial; excellent temporal resolution

In practice, generally, we/you are likely to be working with parcellation / ROI time series

-> changes spatial resolution

Macro-connectomics approach: construct whole-brain networks from:

- a) synchronization/correlation of ROI time series
  - -> 'functional connectome'
- b) strength of anatomical connections
  - -> 'structural connectome'





### That's a wrap 😳



## Modelling rsfMRI non-stationary covariance-structure



Hansen et al. 2015